

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A travel product inventory and rate management system comprising:

a bulk inventory database containing inventory information, a rate database containing rate information, and a travel product information database containing travel product information, the information in each of the databases related to a plurality of individual travel products provided by a plurality of travel product suppliers and including rules provided by the travel product suppliers regarding availability and pricing for a plurality of vacation product sellers, the travel product inventory and rate management system applying said rules to allocate inventory and determine pricing for individual travel products when such products are selected by a particular one of the plurality of vacation product sellers;

~~wherein the inventory, travel product, and rate information contained in the bulk inventory, travel product information and rate databases includes rules provided by the travel product suppliers regarding availability and pricing that permit the travel product inventory and rate management system to allocate inventory and determine pricing for individual travel products; and~~

an interface between the travel product inventory and rate management system and ~~a the particular one of the plurality of vacation product sellers such that the particular one of the plurality of vacation product sellers~~ is provided with the ability to select and book an individual

travel product or a vacation package combined by a component bundler after application of said rules for allocation of inventory and determination of pricing by the travel product inventory and rate management system.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A method of managing an inventory of travel products

comprising the following steps:

providing bulk inventory, travel product information, and rate databases as part of an inventory and rate management system;

loading the bulk inventory, travel product information, and rate databases with inventory, travel product, and rate information for a plurality of individual travel products provided by a plurality of travel product suppliers, the information including rules provided by the plurality of travel product suppliers regarding availability and pricing for the plurality of individual travel products as related to individual ones of a plurality of vacation product sellers, the inventory and rate management system applying said rules to allocate inventory and determine pricing for each of the plurality of individual travel products when such products are selected by an individual one of the plurality of vacation product sellers; and

~~selectively choosing and bundling at least two of the plurality of individual travel products into a vacation package;~~

~~selecting the vacation package at least one of plurality of individual travel products through an interface between an individual one of the plurality of a vacation package sellers and the inventory and rate management system;~~ and

~~wherein the inventory, travel product, and rate information contained in the bulk inventory and rate database includes rules from the travel product suppliers regarding availability and pricing that permit the travel product inventory and rate management system to allocate inventory and determine pricing for individual travel products.~~

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) A method of distributing a vacation package to a plurality of vacation package sellers comprising the following steps:

providing an inventory and rate management system including a bulk inventory, travel product information, and rate database, the bulk inventory, travel product information, and rate database containing inventory, travel product, and rate information related to a plurality of individual travel products supplied by a plurality of travel product suppliers, the information including rules provided by the plurality of travel product suppliers regarding availability and

pricing for the plurality of individual travel products, the inventory and rate management system applying said rules to allocate inventory and determine pricing for each of the plurality of individual travel products when such products are selected by a particular one of the plurality of vacation package sellers;

combining at least two of the plurality of individual travel products supplied by a plurality of travel product suppliers into the vacation package and applying the rules provided by the plurality of travel product suppliers regarding availability and pricing to determine availability and pricing for the vacation package for the particular one of the plurality of vacation package sellers;

selectively accessing the vacation package through an interface between a the particular one of the plurality of vacation package sellers and the inventory and rate management system; and

loading the bulk inventory and rate database with inventory, travel product, and rate information related to the travel products supplied by each of the plurality of travel product suppliers, wherein the inventory, travel product, and rate information contained in the bulk inventory and rate database includes rules from the travel product suppliers regarding availability and pricing that permit the travel product inventory and rate management system to allocate inventory and determine pricing for individual travel products; and

reserving the vacation package through the interface to the inventory and rate management system.

17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of compiling at least two of the plurality of individual travel products into a vacation package and applying the rules provided by the plurality of travel product suppliers regarding availability and pricing to determine availability and pricing for the vacation package for the particular one of the plurality of vacation package sellers is performed by a dynamic component bundler at the time when the particular one of the plurality of vacation package sellers accesses the vacation package through the interface.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of compiling at least two of the plurality of individual travel products into a vacation package and applying the rules provided by the plurality of travel product suppliers regarding availability and pricing to determine availability and pricing for the vacation package for the particular one of the plurality of vacation package sellers is performed by a component bundler prior to the time when the particular one of the plurality of vacation package sellers accesses the vacation package through the interface.

20. (cancelled)